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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Tuberculosis Control Assistance Program (TB CAP)

OVERVIEW

Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the main Afghan public health issues. The World Health Organization's Global Tuberculosis Control Report 2010, estimated 53,000 new TB cases occur annually in Afghanistan, and 11,000 Afghans died from TB in 2008. USAID's TB CAP strengthens the managerial capacity of Afghanistan's National Tuberculosis Program (NTP) and expands access to Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS), the most effective low-cost strategy to detect, treat, and cure TB.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- **Advocacy for capacity building:** Provide technical assistance to the NTP to ensure a high level of political commitment to fighting TB
- **National level commitment:** Revitalize the national TB Task Force, conduct annual operational planning and establish the *Stop TB* partnership at the national and provincial levels
- **Skills training for standardization:** Support the Ministry of Public Health in updating national guidelines and manuals; introduce standard operating procedures; strengthen reporting and recording; and conduct training for NTP staff on local service delivery, report writing, and internet use
- **Quality treatment provision:** Ensure that quality DOTS services are provided to patients by improving lab microscopy, training community health workers to implement DOTS, strengthening reporting, and providing technical and financial assistance to laboratories in 41 health centers
- **Local capacity development:** Build local capacity to conduct research and design operational plans to serve nomads, the displaced, and prisoners with TB
- **New infection control measures:** Introduce state-of-the-art TB infection control measures to NTP and develop staff capacity to implement these measures
- **Stakeholder engagement:** Engage public and private stakeholders in providing quality DOTS through the design and implementation of a DOTS program in Kabul
- **Human resource development:** Ensure that the national human resources development plan includes training on TB and job aids for health workers

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Trained approximately 8,450 community health workers to administer DOTS
- Identified more than 10,750 potential TB cases referred by community health workers; 1,252 patients tested positive and are receiving DOTS from community health workers.
- Developed a TB Information System database that is being implemented in 13 USAID-supported provinces
- Distributed more than 32,300 DOTS treatment packages to health facilities
- Trained 2,071 health workers on TB detection and treatment of which 475 were female
- Mobilized approximately 14,040 individuals to celebrate World TB Day in 2011 and distributed more than 10.9 million pamphlets and other TB education materials
- Trained 157 senior NTP staff on leadership and organizational development